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HI -LIGHTS AND SIRENS Memo Series 03-10

June 2003

TO: Ambulance Service Providers
Ambulance Service Medical Directors
EMS Training Centers
First Responder Organizations
EMS Coordinators
EMS Advisory Board
Emergency Physicians Advisory Committee

FROM: Bureau of EMS and Injury Prevention
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Systems Section

RE: Miscellaneous Updates

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A REGULATORY AGENCY AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION

A regulatory agency is often confused with a professional association. A professional association's focus is to promote the profession and to serve individuals within that profession, more specifically, to serve its membership. This is not to say that professional associations that serve medical professionals do not care about public or patient safety. It is only to say that a professional association's charge is to its professional membership, not to the health, safety and welfare of the public. For example, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) has the following mission statement: *"The mission of the NAEMT is to assure a professional representative organization to receive and represent the views and opinions of pre-hospital care personnel and to thus influence the future advancement of EMS as an allied health profession..."*

The regulatory agency is held accountable to the citizens should a license holder practice in an unsafe manner. The regulatory agency is charged with taking appropriate disciplinary action when necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. And it is the regulatory agency that is given statutory responsibility to regulate pre-hospital emergency medical providers. Although it is ideal for the regulatory agency and the professional associations to work together, it is important to understand the purpose and function of each entity.



The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention (BEMSIP) is a bureau within the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) and is responsible to assist DHFS in carrying out its statutory duties. BEMSIP has statutory responsibility and authority to:

- serve as the lead state agency for emergency medical services (EMS) in Wisconsin
- implement measures to achieve objectives set forth in the State EMS plan
- provide quality assurance in the EMS system, including collecting and analyzing data related to local and regional EMS systems, ambulance service providers, first responders and emergency medical technicians (EMTs)
- provide technical assistance to ambulance service providers, first responders and EMTs in developing plans, expanding services and complying with applicable statutes and rules
- set standards for all organizations that offer training to first responders and EMTs on what topics should be included in initial and continuing training
- review recommendations of the EMS Advisory Board and to promulgate rules necessary to implement those recommendations
- investigate complaints regarding ambulance service providers, first responders, EMTs and medical directors and take appropriate disciplinary action
- consult with the Wisconsin Technical College Systems Board (WTCSB) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) on issues that affect ambulance service providers, first responders and EMTs
- promulgate rules that set forth the authority and duties of the medical directors and the state medical director for EMS
- serve as the lead agency in the development and implementation of a statewide trauma care system
- promulgate rules for all EMT license levels and scope of practice

The mission of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention is:

- to provide a quality EMS system that will reduce both human suffering and economic loss to society from premature death and disability resulting from accident or illness
- to provide leadership and support to the EMS community
- to ensure quality emergency medical care for the citizens and visitors of Wisconsin

To ensure quality pre-hospital emergency medical care for the citizens and visitors of Wisconsin, BEMSIP licenses and regulates First Responders – Defibrillation, Emergency Medical Technicians and ambulance service providers. Wisconsin statutes and rules establish the requirements for providing pre-hospital emergency medical care at the first responder – defibrillation, basic, basic IV technician, intermediate and paramedic levels. Licensure assures the public that an individual licensed at a certain level has met the minimum standard requirements for education, training and examination at that level. At times, the legislature passes laws implementing additional licensing requirements, such as requiring the new bio-terrorism first responder awareness training for all EMS license levels.

If you need information on licensing, regulation or other policies related to emergency medical services, first responders or emergency medical technicians, contact the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention at 608-266-1568 or visit our website at www.dhfs.state.wi.us/DPH_EMSIP/index.htm.



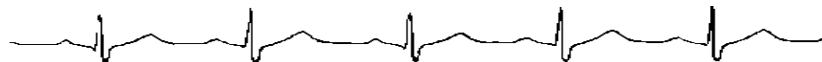
CHANGES TO SCOPE OF PRACTICE OR STANDARD OF CARE

As a reminder, the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention (BEMSIP) will notify ambulance service providers **directly** of any changes in scope of practice and/or standard of care as it relates to EMS in the State of Wisconsin. There may be articles in national publications and magazines that discuss various new procedures and instruct you to start working with your medical director to institute; however, if they change your scope of practice or standard of care, DHFS must approve them. Listed below are two recent examples:

1. Some recent articles regarding the addition of continuous positive airway pressure devices (**CPAP**) to the Basic and Basic IV Tech levels may have indicated that CPAP has been approved by the BEMSIP and can currently be used by these levels. This is incorrect information. The Emergency Physicians Advisory Committee (EPAC) has recommended to the BEMSIP that a pilot program be initiated to research the use of CPAP at the Basic and Basic IV Tech levels. The BEMSIP is in the process of developing an application process for services to apply to participate in this pilot program. The services will receive a curriculum, protocol, QA process, and must submit data to the BEMSIP. Information will be forwarded to services within a few months.

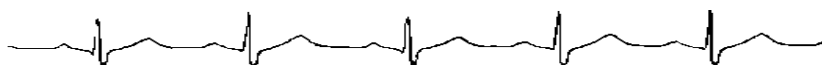
Currently, CPAP is **only** approved for use at the EMT-Paramedic and EMT-Intermediate (99) levels of care in Wisconsin.

2. **Selective immobilization** protocols have only been approved at the EMT-Paramedic and EMT-Intermediate (99) levels of care in Wisconsin. No other provider levels should be using or developing protocols or training for selective immobilization at this time.



UPDATE ON EMT BASIC IV TECHNICIAN

It is projected that the EMT-Basic IV Technician refresher curriculum will be ready for use by the fall semester. The pediatric component of the EMT-Basic IV Technician curriculum continues in development with the issue of IV starts and interosseous infusion yet to be finalized. This pediatric component will also be available for current EMT-Intermediates (85).





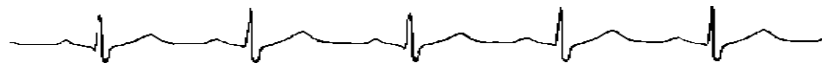
THE COMMUNICATORS ROLE

If it weren't for the person behind the communications console, we would never hear a page and our ambulances would never leave the station. Have you ever thought of the role that communicators play for those of us in Emergency Medical Services (EMS)?

In a recent study of professionals across a wide range of job disciplines, the biggest item that workers wanted from their job was a sense of inclusion and satisfaction. Put yourself in a job situation where you started tens and hundreds of "projects" daily but were never given a chance to finish any of them. Compound that by weeks, months and even years. What if these "projects" affected people's lives, often with life and death outcomes?

As we go about our daily lives and involvement with EMS, make a place for that person at the other end of the pager and radio. Check to see if you can stop by the communications center for a "sit-along" to experience the job firsthand. Include the communicator in debriefings. Make a point to talk to the communicator you were working with on a call and pass along a thanks and, within confidentiality guidelines, an update of the patient and/or call.

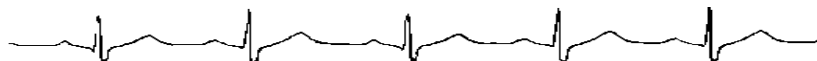
All of us involved with EMS in Wisconsin, including the communicators, are dedicated to helping and protecting our fellow citizens. Remember to include these people in your EMS plans and activities!



FORMS ON THE INTERNET

Updated forms for use by EMTs and ambulance service providers are being added to our web pages in the near future. These include:

- A "Change of EMS Service Medical Director" form will be added and is for use by ambulance service providers when there is an added or changed medical director.
- A new "EMS Provider License Application" form will be added. This is an abbreviated form for use by ambulance service providers and is intended to be submitted along with a new or amended Ambulance Service Operational Plan.
- A new "EMT License Application" form will be added. This form will replace all other license application forms and will be for use by anyone applying for a license as an EMT at any level.





WHO/HOW ARE YOU GOING TO CALL?

EMTs constantly train so that they can do their jobs effectively. Part of this effectiveness is the ability to communicate with other responders and the dispatch center.

- At a large multi response scene, the on scene commander directs you to a mutual aid channel. Will you know what to do?
- You have to coordinate the landing zone for an inbound medical aircraft. What channel will you use?

HFS 110.08(2)(f) indicates the need for all ambulance service providers to comply with the State EMS Communications Plan. This communications plan says that all ambulance service providers must have the ability to communicate on the State EMS frequency (155.340 MHz), the State ALS frequency (155.400 MHz), as well as MARC 1 (151.280 MHz receive, 153.845 MHz transmit) and MARC 2 (151.280 MHz simplex).

- What happens if your service gets dispatched to an area in which you normally don't operate?
- What if you need to conduct local communications at a large scene with PD and Fire?

The WISTAC channels: WISTAC 1 (154.265 MHz), WISTAC 2 (154.010 MHz), and WISTAC 3 (154.130 MHz) are available for inter-agency communications for public service use. The State Coordination channel (155.280 MHz) is also available. This channel is typically reserved for communications between hospitals, but can be used for field coordination between agencies as well.

Contact Paul Wittkamp at (608) 261-9306 for further details and help setting up your services' communication plan and goals.

Communicating is a vital part of your job as an EMT. Remember to include radio communications as a part of your regular training schedule!

AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDER LICENSE UPDATES

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Injury Prevention (BEMSIP) has recently been informed of several services that have merged with others, had substantial name changes and/or have had changes of ownership. Most of these events happened quit some time ago and the BEMSIP is just now hearing about the changes.

Any change of provider name, provider ownership, merge of providers, addition of a new provider, etc. must be reported to the BEMSIP prior to the change actually occurring. Some changes may require a change in licensure. Each ambulance service provider is licensed by the BEMSIP and should have a current operational plan on file with the office. The ambulance service provider is held to that operational plan, including the medical director, type of service, primary service area, etc.

Contact your services' program coordinator for more information.



REGION 45 (WISCONSIN) 700 MHz PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES SECOND MEETING

The FCC has opened up a new radio band segment for public service use. This won't become a real option for several years, but the FCC has mandated all of the states to form planning committees to deal with spectrum assignment now.

The Region 45 (Wisconsin) 700 MHz Public Safety Planning Committee announces that its second meeting will be held on June 4, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Oneida Public Safety Building, 2783 Freedom Road, Oneida, WI, west of Green Bay. (Region 45 encompasses the State of Wisconsin except for Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha Counties.)

This meeting will include:

- An educational presentation on 700 MHz planning issues
- Approval of bylaws and rules of order
- Distribution of planning materials
- Formation of subcommittees

The Region 45 700 MHz Public Safety Planning Committee meeting is open to the public. All eligible public safety providers in Wisconsin may utilize these frequencies. It is essential that participants be representative of all eligible public safety providers in order to ensure that your agencies' future spectrum needs are considered in the allocation process. Administrators who are not oriented in the communications field should delegate someone with this knowledge to attend, participate and represent your agency's needs. Vendors are encouraged to attend as non-voting members and serve as a resource to the committee.

All interested parties wishing to participate in the planning for the use of new public safety spectrum in the 700 MHz band within Region 45 should plan to attend. For further information, please contact:

Karen A. Carlson
Region 45 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee Chair
(920) 448-7612 or carlson_ka@co.brown.wi.us

Directions to the meeting: from USH 41 follow STH 172 westbound until the last street before STH 54 (Freedom Rd.), turn left (south-the only way that you can go). From STH 54 east, turn east onto STH 172 and take the first right. The police department is approximately 3/4 miles on the right side of the street, right after the cemetery on the hill.

